

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01
TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 SIG-03 /149 R

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R 111811Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 0277
HICOMTERPACIS MARIANA ISLANDS 0077
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 120218

GENEVA FOR LOS DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PLOS

SUBJECT: SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY

1. FISHERIES TEAM MET 6 MAY WITH WESTERN SAMOA SECRETARY
TO GOVERNMENT GOGGIN. ATTORNEY GENERAL SLADE, CHAIRMAN
OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION MULLER AND VARIOUS OTHER GO-
VERNMENT OFFICIALS. GOGGIN OPENED MEETING BY STATING
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WESTERN SAMOA POSITION WAS TO PUSH STRONGLY FOR FORMATION
OF SPFRA WHICH WOULD HAVE REGULATORY ROLE, AND WHICH
INCLUDED U.S. AND OTHER METROPOLITAN POWERS. HE STATED
THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD INFORMED HIM PRIVATELY THAT IF THE
U.S. AND FRANCE WERE EXCLUDED FROM SPRFE, HE SAW NO REASON
WHY WESTERN SAMOA SHOULD JOIN.

2. TEAM BRIEFED ON RECENT VISITS TO VARIOUS CAPITALS, AND MADE BASIC PRESENTATION OF U.S. POSITION. SAMOANS DISPLAYED NO SURPRISE AT PNA ATTITUDE AND STATED OPINION THAT GPNA HAD NEVER REALLY BEEN IN FAVOR OF TRUE REGIONAL COOPERATION. GWS IS, HOWEVER, QUITE CONCERNED OVER FIJIAN POSITION. THEY BELIEVE THAT FIJI WILL HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY IN RECONCILING THEIR DISTANT WATER POLITICAL INTERESTS, AND COULD ULTIMATELY WRECK EFFORT. GWS OFFICIALS SPECULATED THAT YET ANOTHER FIJIAN CONCERN MAY BE TO AVOID FORMING, WITH FORUM BLESSING, A SPRFA WHICH INCLUDES NON-COMMON-

WEALTH NATIONS. WHEN ASKED TO ELABORATE ON THIS THOUGHT, GOGGIN STATED THAT FIJI HAD FOR YEARS SUCCESSFULLY MANIPULATED THE RULES FOR FORUM AND SPEC MEMBERSHIP TO AVOID ADMITTING NON-COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES. HE STATED GWS HAS AS ULTIMATE GOAL THE MERGING OF SPC AND THE FORUM, WITH A MEMBERSHIP WHICH INCLUDES ALL PACIFIC COUNTRIES, AND HAS OPPOSED FIJI IN THIS REGARD.

3. FOLLOWING A GENERAL DISCUSSION, GOGGIN GAVE HIS ASSESSMENT OF VARIOUS COUNTRY POSITIONS, AND THE TACTICAL SITUATION. HE SEES PNG AT ONE END OF A SPECTRUM AND WESTERN SAMOA AT THE OTHER. TONGA, IN HIS OPINION, MAY SHY AWAY FROM A TRUE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION IN FAVOR OF UNILATERALISM, AND FIJI COULD ULTIMATELY DECIDE ITS POSITION ON POLITICAL GROUNDS, A TROUBLESOME PROSPECT. THE SOLOMONS WILL REMAIN STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF A SPRFA, AS WILL THE

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SMALL ISLAND DEPENDENCIES. NAURU WAS, IN GOGGIN'S OPINION AN UNKNOWN FACTOR. SUMMING UP, GOGGIN SEES THE PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS IN DISARRAY, AT PRESENT. HE BELIEVES THAT AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND WILL TRY TO EXHORT LEADERSHIP, BUT THAT HISTORICALLY THEIR POLICY HAS BEEN TO ALLOW THE ISLAND NATION TO DECIDE ISSUES FOR THEMSELVES. IN CASE OF A REAL CONFRONTATION, GOGGIN BELIEVES AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND WILL "DUCK".

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4. BASED ON ABOVE ASSESSMENT, GOGGIN BELIEVES WESTERN SAMOA THROUGH DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER EFI, MUST TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE. HE STATED THAT AT MAY 8 - 10 MEETING GWS WOULD PUSH HARD TO KEEP EFFORT ON TRACK. SHOULD IT APPEAR THAT EFFORT IS FALTERING (AS GOGGIN BELIEVES IT WILL) HE STATED PM EFI WILL WRITE A LETTER TO OTHER FORUM HEADS OF GOVERNMENT EXPRESSING HIS CONCERNS REGARDING THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE WILL FOLLOW THIS UP WITH PERSONAL REPRESENTATIONS TO PM RATUMARA OF FIJI AND PM SOMARE OF PNG DURING THE WESTERN SAMOAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION SCHEDULED FOR EARLY JUNE. GOGGIN BELIEVES IT UNLIKELY THAT POSITION OF EITHER GOVERNMENT CAN BE CHANGED IN TIME FOR JUNE ROUND, BUT STATED WESTERN SAMOA

INTENDED TO TRY.

5. DURING DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, U.S. AND WESTERN SAMOA VIEWS AGREE ON MOST ISSUES. ONLY AREA OF DIFFERENCE MAY BE REGARDING REPRESENTATIVES OF DEPENDENT TERRITORIES. WESTERN SAMOA IS STRONG ADVOCATE OF U.S. AND FRENCH PARTICIPATION ONLY BECAUSE OF DEPENDENT TERRITORIES LOCATED IN THE REGION. THEY THEREFORE ADVOCATE AS MUCH INDEPENDENCE OF ACTION FOR THE DEPENDENCIES AS POSSIBLE, AND CONSIDER THAT U.S. ROLE SHOULD BE LIMITED TO ACTING ON BEHALF OF ITS TERRITORIES. THEY UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT U.S. SEES ITS ROLE AS SOMEWHAT BROADER, AND DO NOT OBJECT TO U.S. DELEGATIONS PURSUING OTHER INTERESTS. IMPRESSION GAINED WAS THAT GWS WANTED TO ENSURE THAT POLITICAL
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UNDERPINNING OF SAMOAN STRONG SUPPORT FOR U.S. WAS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD IN ORDER TO AVOID U.S. INADVERTENTLY TAKING POSITION WHICH WOULD EMBARRASS GWS.

6. COMMENT: TEAM BELIEVES VISIT TO APIA WILL PRODUCE REAL DIVIDENDS. GWS OFFICIALS VERY PLEASED AT VISIT, AND ENGAGED IN A NUMBER OF VERY FRANK INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS REGARDING ISSUES. WESTERN SAMOA IS OBVIOUSLY WILLING TO TAKE THE LEAD IN PUSHING SPRFA EFFORT IN DIRECTIONS FAVORABLE TO U.S. INTERESTS, AND PM SEES IT AS AN ISSUE IN WHICH HE PERSONALLY SHOULD TAKE AN INTEREST. TEAM BELIEVES AWS WILL CONTINUE TO BE ONE OF OUR STAUNCHEST ALLIES, AND WE SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT. VANCE

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